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ODD-EVEN SCHEME IS BACK IN DELHI AS CITY UNDER POLLUTION CLOUD

The odd-even car scheme will apply from Nov 13 to 20. It permits cars to operate on alternate days based on odd or even number plates

SCHOOLS SHUT TILL NOV 10 AS HAZE PERSISTS

All schools in Delhi have been directed to suspend physical classes, barring classes 10 and 12, until November 10 in view of the rising pollution levels. Pollution levels in Delhi-NCR on Monday morning were recorded around seven to eight times above the government-prescribed safe limit, as a toxic haze persisted over the region for the seventh consecutive day

19,463 CASES OF STUBBLE-BURNING IN PUNJAB

- As many as 2,060 fresh stubble-burning incidents were recorded in Punjab on Monday, taking the total number of such cases to 19,463 till Monday. Stubble burning is responsible for poor air quality in Delhi
- Overall stubble burning from September 15 till November 6 was 35% less than 29,999 such cases in the corresponding period last year

32,734

PEAK CASES OF STUBBLE-BURNING FROM SEPT 15 TO NOV 6 IN PUNJAB IN 2021

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

SC raps guvs for sitting on bills passed by legislatures

JAISON WILSON @ New Delhi

RAISING concerns over the inordinate delay on the part of governors of opposition-ruled states, such as Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Punjab, the Supreme Court on Monday said governors need to remember that they are not the elected representatives of people.

The SC made the observation while hearing the Aam Aadmi Party-led Punjab government's plea against governor Banwarilal Purohit for the delay in clearing the bills passed by the state Assembly.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Punjab governor, told the bench that Purohit has taken action on the bills placed before him and that the state government's plea is an unnecessary litigation.

A bench led by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud asked why governors choose to act only after states approach the apex court, stressing that this trend has to stop. The CJI noted that the same thing happened in the Telangana government's matter also, adding that a "Little bit of soul searching" is needed from the governors as well as chief ministers.

"Governor must know that he is not an elected representative. He can withhold assent and send it back once... particularly on money bills. Why should parties be required to move the SC for convening the House? We are the oldest democracy and these issues must be sorted between the Chief Minister and the Governor," he said.

The bench, also comprising judges J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, asked Mehta to submit a status report on the action taken by the Punjab governor on the bills passed by the Assembly.

The CJI also criticised the Punjab government for reconvening the assembly, which was adjourned sine die on March 22, without being prorogued, three months later.

The bench also agreed to hear the pleas of Kerala and Tamil Nadu on Friday. Appearing for the Kerala government, former attorney-general K K Venugopal said Governor Arif Mohammed Khan has held back bills for two years. The TN government's plea accused Governor R N Ravi of "engaging in politically motivated conduct" by sitting on bills. Another plea by TN, seeking to restrain the governor from constituting search panels, will also be heard on Friday.

TN, KERALA CASES TO BE HEARD ON FRIDAY

The CJI-led bench of the Supreme Court will take up on Friday the petitions filed by the Kerala and Tamil Nadu governments against their respective governors. The TN government has filed a separate plea seeking the apex court's intervention in restraining governor R N Ravi from trying to dilute the state govt's autonomy in appointing vice-chancellors to state universities by constituting search panels for the same

No pay hike for govt staff now

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

STATE government employees, who were hoping for a pay hike soon, may have to wait for some more months. For, the government on Monday issued an order extending the duration of the Seventh Pay Commission till March 2024.

The previous Bommai government constituted the pay commission in November 2022. The deadline for the commission to submit its report was May 2023. But it was extended.

A few days before the notification for assembly elections was issued, members of the Karnataka State Government Employees' Association went on a strike seeking implementation of the commission's recommendations and a 40% hike in their salaries.

The Bommai government agreed to give an interim pay hike of 17%.

The commission, which was supposed to give its report by November 18, got its term extended till March 15, 2024.

Sources said the government is taking more time to implement the pay commission's recommendations because it is focussing more on mobilisation of resources for its guarantee schemes.

EXPRESS READ

Farmers to get seven hours of staggered power

Bengaluru: With the demand for power to the agriculture sector going up 119% compared to last year, the state government has decided to supply seven hours of staggered power to farmers. In areas where sugarcane and paddy crops are grown, officials were told to supply uninterrupted power for seven hours | P4

With Sri Lanka's Angelo Mathews getting Timed Out in a World Cup clash against Bangladesh, a short explainer on the dismissal and history...

DECONSTRUCTING THE TWO MINUTES

XPLAINER

What happened?
MATHEWS came out to bat in the 25th over. As he was preparing to take strike, he had noticed that his helmet strap was broken. So he asked for a new helmet. With him taking more than two minutes to face the ball, Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan appealed and Mathews was given Timed Out.

Earlier instance?
There have been six instances of it happening before in first-class cricket for reasons including flooded roads, chatting to coach on the ropes, flight delay. However, Mathews' dismissal was the first time a batter was Timed Out in international cricket.

Umpire's call
Adrian Holdstock, fourth umpire for the clash, explained that two minutes had passed even before Mathews' helmet strap broke. And when Shakib appealed after Mathews asked for a new helmet, the umpires, who clock the time for every batter walking in, ruled him out.

What does the law say?
As the ICC playing conditions for the tournament, after the fall of a wicket or the retirement of a batter, the incoming batter must, unless Time has been called, be ready to receive the ball, or for the other batter to be ready to receive the next ball within 2 minutes of the dismissal or retirement.

Does it account for equipment malfunction?
According to Holdstock, the next batter is required to receive the next delivery and not just take guard and get ready. "I think as a batter you need to make sure all your equipment is in place in order to make sure you get there, because in order to receive the ball within 2 minutes, not prepare or take guard, technically he should be there within 50 seconds to make sure all those things are in place," Holdstock told the broadcasters.

Mathews' options
Given that it was not mandatory to wear a helmet against spinners, he could have faced one delivery. According to an international umpire, Mathews could have asked the umpires whether he could take the time to change the helmet. "Whether they would have allowed or not is subjective but he could have asked," the umpire said.

Panel for gender-neutral adultery law, part of 377

Committee adopts draft report; dissent notes from Oppn coming

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

A Parliamentary committee examining three bills that seek to replace the existing criminal laws on Monday adopted its draft report suggesting a slew of amendments but sticking to their Hindi names, with nearly 10 Opposition members likely to submit dissent notes.

Significantly, the committee headed by BJP MP Brij Lal recommended bringing back a gender-neutral adultery law and punitive measures for non-consensual sex between men, women and trans persons under Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, among others.

Sources told this paper the majority view cutting across party lines was to retain Section 377 to criminalise non-consensual "unnatural offenses". The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023, the proposed replacement for the IPC, had removed 377. The Supreme Court, in a historic judgment, had partially struck it down in 2018.

Though the SC ruled that consensual gay sex is not a crime, certain provisions of 377 ("unnatural offenses") remained applicable. Most members felt that the absence of this section can leave victims of sexual assault without any other legal remedy.

The committee also decided to propose the re-criminalisation of adultery (Section 497), as it has been totally removed from the new bill and make it gender neutral. The adultery law had been decriminalised by the SC in 2018.

No amendments were proposed to change the Hindi titles of the bills, a contentious issue. The committee ignored suggestions from some Opposition members, including Dayanidhi Maran, that they should have English versions too.

Another recommendation includes awarding death or life sentence for mob lynching on grounds of caste or community. In the proposed BNS, it was less than seven years of jail.

The panel did not make any amendments regarding 'terrorist acts', which had been added in the BNS. Though the Opposition suggested their review, no changes were accepted.

No changes in new sedition laws have been recommended either, said sources. In the new bill, though the name of the sedition law has been changed, its ambit and scope of punishment became wider. Sources said Section 353 of the IPC provides for a maximum of two years of prison. The panel may seek to slash it to one year. The law is often used against those staging protests. Many members said common protesters should be dealt with leniently.

DEFINE COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Congress leader P Chidambaram spoke at length in the meeting offering a host of suggestions, including that the committee should define community service and what all it envisages. He sought three days instead of two for members to file dissent notes but the panel stuck to its 48-hr deadline
- Panel recommended taking a more stringent view of deaths caused by negligence. It also proposed a reduction in sentence for those convicted of deterring public servants from discharging their duties

SWIFT ACTION

Former driver held for senior official's murder

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE police have claimed to have solved the murder case of 43-year-old Prathima KS, senior geologist, with the arrest of her former driver.

The accused, identified as **Kiran**, 32, of Jamboo Savari Dinne at Konanakunte in the city, was arrested at the Male Mahadeshwara Hills on Sunday.

Investigations revealed that Kiran, who was sacked from job, murdered the officer as she did not pay heed to his repeated requests to reappoint him as her car driver.

Kiran was appointed as a driver on a contract basis by the Department of Mines and Geology eight years ago. He was Prathima's driver and was reportedly sacked two months ago for misconduct.

After murdering Prathima, Kiran fled to the MM Hills in Chamarajanagar district on his friend's motorcycle.

The police traced his phone call and managed to arrest him there. He was planning to go to Tamil Nadu, the police said.

Kiran was produced before the Second Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) Court, which remanded him in police custody till November 15. The accused has a criminal history. A case of attempt to dacoity was registered against him by Konanakunte police in 2017.

Rahul Kumar Shahapurwad, Deputy Commissioner of Police (South), told reporters that Kiran worked as Prathima's driver for four years at the Bengaluru Urban office of the Mines and Geology Department near Vidhana Soudha.

CONTINUED ON: P3

Fire and smoke rises from buildings following Israeli airstrikes on Gaza City | AP

Palestinian toll crosses 10K, north Gaza cut off

AGENCIES

ISRAELI forces severed northern Gaza from the rest of the besieged territory and pounded it with intense airstrikes overnight into Monday, setting the stage for an expected push into the dense confines of Gaza City and an even bloodier phase of the month-old war, the AP reported.

It happened on a day when the Palestinian toll crossed 10,000. It is a grim milestone in what has become the deadliest round of Israeli-Palestinian violence since Israel's establishment 75 years ago. "We're closing in on them," said an Israeli military spokesman. "We've completed our encirclement, separating Hamas strongholds in the north from the south."

Appalled by the continued bombing, South Africa recalled all its diplomats from Tel Aviv and threatened to take action against the Israeli Ambassador in the country. Minister Khumbudzo Ntshavheni said the cabinet decided on these measures in view of the continuing bombing of schools and clinics in Gaza and the closure of borders for humanitarian aid.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Iranian President Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi on the difficult situation created by the Israel-Hamas conflict. He shared his concern at the "terrorist incidents, violence and loss of civilian lives", a PMO statement said. P11

Repatriation flight from Israel lands at KIA

Bengaluru: The first repatriation flight for South India bringing Indians from Israel landed at Kempegowda International Airport at 9.44 pm, after an eight-hour journey. The flight, operated by Israeli national carrier EL AL Airlines, took a longish route from Tel Aviv to avoid Omani and Yemeni air space, said a source. The flight took off from Ben Gurion International Airport in Tel Aviv at 7.44 am local time. On landing at KIA, the passengers were whisked away secretly and not through the usual arrival section. As of now, the flight is parked in the cargo bay of the airport. ENS

Shakti scheme's ₹2,800 cr may not last till March

AKNISREE KARTHIK @ Bengaluru

ALTHOUGH Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has earmarked Rs 2,800 crore for his ambitious 'Shakti' scheme in the budget, the total zero ticket value of women passengers recorded till November 5 was Rs 2,143 crore. With five more months for this financial year to end, transport corporations maintain that the fund may last only till December.

A KSRTC official said, "We were of the assumption that the number of women passengers taking the free bus ride would come down a few days after the scheme's implementation. But this did not happen. The number remains steady. We did not expect the scheme to receive such an overwhelming response. The government pays this ticket value to the bus corporations every month. The allocation for the scheme will have to be enhanced."

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy said more funds will be allocated for the scheme in December. "Taking into account the total ticket value recorded till December, we will allocate more funds."

Gruha Lakshmi, Anna Bhagya money by 20th of month

The state government has announced that money to beneficiaries of Gruha Lakshmi and Anna Bhagya schemes will be transferred to their bank accounts by 20th of every month. In a circular, the Finance Department directed the Food and Civil Supplies (Anna Bhagya) and Women and Child Welfare (Gruha Lakshmi) departments to complete the process between 10th and 15th of every month.

3 HC CJs

Named for elevation

Justice Satish Chandra Sharma of Delhi HC, Justice Augustine George Masih of Rajasthan and Sandeep Mehta of Guwahati recommended as SC judges | P10

B'LURU RAGPICKER FINDS '$3M' IN PLASTIC BAG

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A 39-year-old ragpicker found a plastic bag with $3 million, whose authenticity is yet to be ascertained, along with a letter bearing a UN seal on a railway track in the city.

Saleman SK, the ragpicker, who hails from Nadia in West Bengal, collects waste items and sell them for a living.

On Friday when Saleman was looking for waste items in and around the Nagawara railway station, he found the black bag on the railway track and took it to his house at Amruthahalli. When Saleman opened the plastic bag, he found the dollar bills.

Not knowing what to do with the dollar bills, Saleman called Bappa, a scrap dealer, and told him about the money he found. Bappa, who was travelling, told Saleman to keep the money with him until he returned to Bengaluru. Saleman, who found it difficult to keep the money at his house, approached R Kaleem Ullah, a social activist from Swaraj India, on Sunday.

Kaleem Ullah informed the matter to City Police Commissioner B Dayananda. "When I informed the commissioner about the money, he asked me to bring Saleman to his office along with the money. Saleman, who was still in shock, revealed that he found the money on the railway track. The commissioner immediately called the Hebbal police and asked them to inspect the spot," Ullah said.

The letter bearing the UN seal found in the plastic bag stated, "The economic and finance committee puts in place a special fund which was voted by members of the Security Council to assist the UN peacekeeping forces in south Sudan. Due to the skeletal banking operations and hijacking of such funds by unauthorised persons such as terrorists and dictators in these regions, the United Nations authorised the finance committee to place a visible laser stamp on the notes to keep them secure and reach them to the destination safely."

The Hebbal police said the dollar bills appear to be fake and they have sent them to the Reserve Bank of India for a thorough verification.